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Twelve WV Counties Receive Natural Disaster Designations

Charleston W.Va. -- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved 12 counties in West Virginia as primary natural disaster areas. Those counties are the following: Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Jackson, Mason, Nicholas, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Webster, Wirt and Wood. The designation is in response to the flooding caused by Hurricane Florence and Michael that occurred between April 2018 through December 31, 2018.

“We thank USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue for issuing this designation. Having access to the tools for recovery after natural disasters hit is vitally important to the healing of our communities,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “If a farmer was affected by flooding due to these hurricanes, they should reach out to their local Farm Service Agency office.”

Disaster designation allows farm operators in primary counties and counties contiguous to be considered for certain assistance from the FSA. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of Secretarial disaster declaration, April 2019, to apply for emergency loans. Contiguous counties eligible for assistance include: Cabell, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Lewis, Pocahontas, Putnam, Randolph, Tyler and Upshur.

For more information or assistance, farmers should reach out to their country FSA office.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials who sits on the Board of Public Works.



